

King's Cliffe Endowed Primary School

Pre-School Charging Policy

Policy Updated – April 2026

Review Date – April 2027

Chair of Governors:

(signed)



King's Cliffe Endowed Primary School supports the entitlement to free 15 hours early years provision (Universal Funding) and 30 hours Extended Funding for 3 and 4 year olds and 2 year olds that are eligible.

Universal free 15 hours provision is available from the term following a child's third birthday up until they reach compulsory school age, for every child, irrespective of background or family circumstances. Regulations prescribe that children become eligible for free early years provision on the dates set out below

A child born in the period	Will become eligible for a free place
1 st April to 31 st August	1 st September following a child's 3 rd birthday (Autumn school term)
1 st September to 31 st December	1 st January following a child's 3 rd birthday (Spring school term)
1 st January to 31 st March	1 st April following a child's 3 rd birthday (Summer school term)

Some families may qualify for free childcare; the amount of free childcare you can get depends on:-

- your child's age and circumstances
- whether you're working (employed, self-employed, or a director)
- your income (and your partner's income, if you have one)
- your immigration status
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You will not be eligible if either:

- your child does not usually live with you
- you or your partner have an expected [adjusted net income](#) of over £100,000 in the current tax year

To see if you are eligible for any funding please visit the Government's childcare eligibility checker:-

[Check what help you could get with childcare costs - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/check-childcare-eligibility)

This calculator lets parents check **all types of childcare support in one place**, including:

- free childcare for children **9 months to 4 years**
- **2-year-old funded childcare**
- **Tax-Free Childcare**
- help with childcare through **Universal Credit**.

Parents are required to answer a few questions about:

- income
- employment
- child's age
- benefits

Then it shows **what funding you may qualify for**.

Please note that for any Working Family funding it is the parent's responsibility to reconfirm their details every three months to remain eligible.

The school also offers additional sessions that can be paid for by parents for those who are not eligible for funding or wish to attend additional sessions to their entitled hours.

Legislation and Guidance

- The Education Act 2002 offered the opportunity to develop the provision of child care within maintained schools
- The Department of Education advises schools that while the free entitlement at the point of delivery is statutory, provision beyond 15 hours is not and therefore can be charged for, in line with the power to charge for extended services. See Child care Act 2006 the Secretary of States Code of Practice 2010
- The Governing Body of King's Cliffe Endowed Primary School makes its charges for additional child care under Section 27 of the Education Act 2002

Policy Aims

- Ensure our charges are fair and affordable
- Review all charges regularly
- All parent(s)/carer(s) will be given notice of increased charges in the term prior to its effective date
- The primary objective of any monetary increase is made to sustain the nursery
- We will be aware of the charges made by other nursery providers
- The governments free entitlement which covers 15 hours per week, over a minimum of 38 weeks, will be maintained at all times subject to session availability

Childcare Charges

- Childcare provision will be available from 9:00am to 3:30pm (6.5 hours), five days a week, 38 weeks of the year (term time only)
- The minimum requirement of acceptance of a place at King's Cliffe Endowed Pre-School is 2 sessions per week.
- Parents are not obliged to purchase additional hours in order to secure free provision
- The charging policy covers children accessing day care additional to the Early Years Foundation Stage funded education
- No charge can be made for the Early Years Foundation Stage funded education place of 15 hours per week, but parent(s)/carer(s) can purchase additional childcare provision where available
- The costings are based on resource requirements to meet Early Years Foundation Stage and Ofsted regulations

Pricing Structure

Sessions run from 9:00am – 12:00pm (3 hours) and 12:00-3:30pm (3.5 hours) and from the 1st September 2026 are priced at £7.00 per hour (£21.00 for a morning session and £24.50 for an afternoon session). Any hours attended above your child's funded allowance will be charged at our hourly rate. For example, a child who is entitled to 30 hours funded and attends full time (32.5 hours) will be charged for 2.5 hours per week.

Children who are staying all day or attending the afternoon session, should bring their own healthy packed lunch where they, along with the Pre-School staff, will join the rest of the school in the main hall.

Payment details, terms and conditions and collection arrangements form part of the admissions policy and procedures

- Parents will only be invoiced for those hours/sessions not covered by the free nursery entitlement

Timing of payments

- Payment by bank transfer or childcare vouchers.
- Charges will be made for sessions even when a child is absent through sickness or holidays.
- Additional charges may apply for special events. Parent(s)/carer(s) will be notified in advance when this is the case.
- The notice period for withdrawing a child from King's Cliffe Endowed Pre-School is one calendar month.

Non-payment fees

- Reminder emails will be sent out before the payment due date.
- The school will pursue non-payment of fees via email.
- If payment has not been received within 1 week of the payment due date on the invoice, we reserve the right to withdraw paid sessions.

- Payment of unpaid fees will normally be pursued through the small claims court.

Changes to sessions

Normally, we are unable to accommodate short term changes to nursery sessions such as changing from a Thursday morning to a Friday afternoon for one week only, as this makes planning appropriate staffing cover very difficult and increases administrative time and costs. However in exceptional circumstances and where staffing allows, special requests will be considered.

Additional fees

King's Cliffe Endowed Pre-School reserves the right to impose charges for late collection of children or for the non-collection of children up to £5.00 for every 15 minutes, to cover the additional staff costs incurred.

Voluntary contributions

Voluntary contributions are requested to cover the cost of trips and special events organized to enrich the delivery of the curriculum. No child will be excluded if a contribution is not received, however plans may have to be cancelled if sufficient contributions are not received.

Support for Childcare Costs

- Parent(s)/carer(s) may be able to access a range of tax credits and grants to support childcare costs
- Childcare costs cannot be met directly from the school budget